

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00067 062223Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1234

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT

SUBJ: ANTI-INFLATION REVIEW BOARD CHAIRMAN JEAN-LUC

PEPIN SPEAKS IN HALIFAX

REF: CONGEN TEL 063

1. AS REPORTED REFEL ANTI-INFLATION REVIEW BOARD CHAIRMAN JEAN-LUC PEPIN WAS TO MAKE PRESENTATION TO JOINT MANAGEMENT-LABOR CONFERENCE IN HALIFAX WHICH HE DID ON FEBRUARY 6. HE TOLD CONFERENCE THAT PURPOSES OF ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM ARE TO: COUNTER INFLATION IN WAGES AND PRICES THAT COMES FROM THE EXPECTATION OF MORE INFLATION: SET UP A TEMPORARY FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE INCOMES WILL GROW AT LEAST AS RAPIDLY AS PRICES AND PROVIDE A TIME TO "ADJUST OUR SETS" FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED ATTITUDES NEEDED FOR THE POST-CONTROL PERIOD. THESE ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDE EVERYTHING FROM IMPROVED LABOR-EMPLOYER RELATIONS TO BETTER INSTRUMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

2. PEPIN SAID THAT PEOPLE MUST REALIZE THAT THEIR FUTURE IS BEING ADJUSTED THROUGH GOVERNMENT REGULATION

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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00067 062223Z

IN ORDER TO PREVENT A SITUATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE

FAR GREATER SACRIFICES. HE SAID THE WAGE AND PRICE
CONTROL PROGRAM IS BEING HINDERED BY A "LACK OF
DRAMA" IN THAT PEOPLE ARE REJECTING THE PROGRAM
WITHOUT REALIZING WHAT IT IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.
THE REAL CHALLENGE IS NOT HOW TO GET OUT OF INFLATION
"BUT HOW NOT TO GET BACK IN IT".

3. THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY, ACCORDING TO PEPIN, IS
EITHER TRAGIC NOR DESPERATE BUT THAT A BIT OF LUCK
AND CANADIAN SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE ANTI-
INFLATION PROGRAM WORK. THE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD
CANNOT CORRECT EVERY EVIL IN THE ECONOMY. ALL
SECTORS MUST REALIZE THAT THE PROGRAM CANNOT PLEASE
EVERYONE AT ONCE ALTHOUGH THE PROGRAM IS GEARED TO
"BALANCE INCONVENIENCES". HE SAID THAT ALL SECTORS
ARE GROANING ABOUT THE PROGRAM AS THE BOARD IMP-
LEMENTS MORE OF ITS GUIDELINES AND MORE AND MORE
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS BECOME SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL.
GOVERNMENTS TOO ARE FINDING LIFE MORE DIFFICULT
BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO PRACTICE WHAT THEY
PREACH ABOUT RESTRAINT.

4. PEPIN QUIPPED THAT IF THE PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL
MANY PEOPLE INCLUDING POLITICIANS AND LABOR LEADERS
WILL LINE UP FOR AWARDS. PEPIN, USING NOTES, DID
NOT SPEAK FROM A PREPARED TEXT.
MANBEY

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